

Arizona Elks News

The Arizona Elks News is an official publication of the Arizona Elks Association

July 2021



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AEA Newsletter

Submission deadline:

25 July 2021

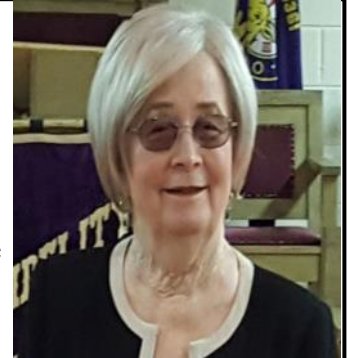
aenewsletter@arizonaelks.org



"Be Proud of Elkdom"

To all AEA Members:

I want to thank Jerome Lodge #1361 for hosting a party to honor me being elected President of the AEA. I also want to thank all those who traveled from all parts of the state to attend – the party was great fun and I'm so honored that so many of you attended. It was a great party!!!



As you read this we will already be in Tampa for the Grand Lodge Convention, and I look forward to a great and exciting convention. I'm so thankful that we're able to hold one this year. More on the convention next month.

I hope that everyone is able to stay cool during this horrible heat that has gripped the whole southwest. I also hope that none of our members get affected by any of the wildfires burning in our state. We must all use due diligence when operating any spark generating equipment, off road vehicles or anything else that could inadvertently spark a fire.

Once Grand Lodge convention is over, visitations by myself and the Vice Presidents will begin in earnest. Please be sure that if your lodge received a letter requesting dates for visitations that you answer that letter promptly to insure that your preferred dates get chosen. Our fond hope is that all of the lodges are doing much better this year, and that we can again hold all of our programs for youth, veterans and our communities.

Remember – photos from all of our events will be available to all Elk Members by logging on to the Arizona Elks website and clicking on "Members Documents & Manuals" and then "AEA Photographs 2021-2022". This link is also at the very bottom of the "Committees" page as well.

Continued on page 2.

**ARIZONA ELKS
ASSOCIATION
2021-2022
STATE OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT:

Charyll McKean

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:

West: Mike Weishan

VICE PRESIDENTS

South: Sue Krausman

West: Stephen H. Whitney

North: Roy Haddick

SECRETARY:

Peter K. Gillespie, PSP

TREASURER:

Alane Asp

BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

South-1 Year:

Alfred R. Skorupski, PSP

East- 2 Year:

John F. James, PSP

North- 3 Year:

Edward Leuer, PSP

West- 4 Year:

Dan Snyder, PSP

South-1 Year:

Richard "Rich" Botkin

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

Bruce C. Van Den Eng

CHAPLAIN:

Marsha Haddick

TILER:

Jo Ellen "Jody" Knapp

INNER GUARD:

Hank Thonnard

ASST. SEC / TREASURER:

Sara McQuality

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Jan Casacchia

ORGANIST:

Hugh Dixon

"Be Proud of Elkdom"

Continued from page 1.

I have heard that some of our lodges are doing great with new memberships and that's so nice to hear after our big loss last year. I hope that the reports coming from all lodges reflects a surge in membership – now is a great time to get members as most people are anxious to get back out and do things.

I hope everyone who is traveling this summer stays safe and cool – until next month---

Regards,



Charyll McKean
AEA President



Elks Care - *Elks* Share

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Hosts Chili Cook-Off for Veterans Charities”

The twelfth annual Bullhead City Elks Memorial Day Chili Cook-off was very successful as the event garnered over \$1,000 which benefits the veteran charities that the Elks support. There were fourteen chili cookers and over 85 folk who voted for the best “people's choice” chili. There was also a plaque for the “Best Decorated Booth” by a cooker.

Submitted by; Terri Frank, Public relations



Pictured L-R: Marilyn Moore chosen #1 chili cooker, Yvonne Harden with Dany Billings voted #2 and Doris Patraw with her grandkids was #3. Ms. Kathryn Cornelison was presented with a plaque for the best-decorated booth, Hawaiian style.

“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Feed a Vet BBQ”

On Sunday, 13 June 2021, our Lodge Veterans committee served hamburgers and hot dogs, coleslaw, chips, water, and soda to a total of 82 veterans with the use of our Freedom Grant. We were also able to deliver 44 of those meals to homebound or restricted Veterans. and well over 100 meals including all who attended. Our Lodge Veterans Committee will host a series of 3 BBQs aimed at homebound, or food challenged Veterans, and a Christmas event at our area Veterans Homes thanks to the ENF Freedom Grant.

Submitted by; Edward Mealy, Veterans Committee and Newsletter Chairman



Pictured L-R: Delivering food to our area Veterans, and Ed Mealy, Veterans Committee Chairman delivering meals.

“Raceway Elks #2852 Celebrates Mother’s Day ”

Everyone who attended Raceway Elks Lodge Mother’s Day Program, left with a day of memories, a full belly, and a heart glowing with Love. The Officers performed the ceremony with pride and during the music parts we had a slide show of some of the Lodge mothers and family. The Trustees served a brunch of scrambled eggs, sausage and biscuits and gravy. There were fruit cups, Danish, coffee and orange juice.

There were lovely gift bags for all Mothers and a raffle of four laden baskets, filled with assorted items.

Everyone displayed a Red or White carnation in honor of Mothers living and those that have gone to heavens guiding light with God by their side. Mothers are truly the guardian Angels with no holds barred love for all.

Submitted by: William Buttrum, PDDGER / Public Relations Chairman



“Kingman Elks #468 Presents Student Scholarship Awards”

Kingman Elks Lodge 468 – Nani Chrimes and Jim Blair of Kingman Elks Lodge 468 gave out a total \$5,250 in Scholarships in May 2021. On May 12, we virtually awarded a scholarship to Kyle Holloway from KAOL (high school) for \$750; At Lee Williams High School we awarded Lia Lucero \$1,000, Kaiona Bautista (young man in middle of photo) \$1,000 and Amelia Brackett \$750. On May 19, Nani Chrimes and Jim Blair awarded 2 scholarships at Kingman High School to Brittany Rudolph for \$1,000 and Esther Torres for \$750. Jim Blair was given the privilege to be the speaker at the May 19th presentation (his first time) and Nani Chrimes was the speaker on May 12 presentation. The Kingman Elks Lodge 468 was proudly represented!

Submitted by: Sarah Pleth, Newsletter Editor



“Sierra Vista Elks #2065 Hosts Project Graduation Bingo”

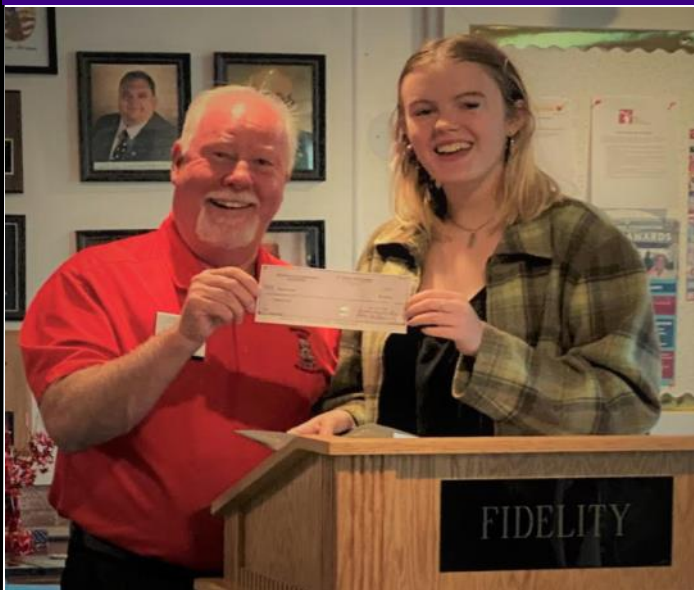
Project Graduation this year was different from past years. Instead of being held indoors all night in the Gym, it was held outdoors on the Buena High School (BHS) baseball field. Also, instead of an all-night event, it was held two nights from the hours of 8pm to midnight, on 26 and 27 May 2021. Because of Covid, the BHS 2021 Graduate class was divided, with approximately half on Wednesday evening and the other half on Thursday evening, attending the Project Graduation games and events. There was enormous support from the community organizations conducting a variety of games, and community businesses providing plenty of food for the 400 plus Graduates throughout the two evening

Through the Elks National Foundation (ENF) Grant efforts of Leading Knight, Shawnee Carlile, our Elks Lodge was able to donate \$2500 to the BHS Project Graduation, and \$500 to the Tombstone High School (THS) Project Graduation. The THS Project Graduation was conducted on 27 May 2021 at the THS property. Also, this year we added a game of Football Bowling which was a success. There were 19 Elks and Non-Elk volunteers, participating in running the Bingo games and Football Bowling.

Submitted by: PER Harry Brown, Project Graduation Co-Chairman



“Raceway Elks #2852 Scholarship Dinner to Honor Winners”



On June 8, 2021, Raceway Lodge #2852 held a dinner in honor of the lodge scholarship winners. In attendance were 13 Elks and 6 non-Elks, Madison See, a lodge scholarship winner was presented a check for \$300 dollars. Accompanying Madison was her father, Jeff See, her boyfriend Quinn Munguia, her Grandfather Jim See and Grandmother Marian See. Madison's Grandfather, Jim See is a member of Raceway Lodge. Madison plans on attending Arizona State University. Raimundo Heredias was also a Scholarship winner, but he could not attend the dinner. Arrangements were made for him to receive his award.

Submitted by: William Buttrum, PDDGER / Public Relations Chairman

“Payson Elks #2154 Host D-Day Remembrance Ceremony”

Small town remembrance of an event that changed the world: Remembering D Day. Payson Elk’s Lodge helps with the support of an event that made the world we live in possible.

Dramatizing this heroic invasion, our community was offered the movie that commemorated it using the iconic actor John Wayne. Veterans brought up jeeps used in that event to help provide visual realness of another time and place. All proceeds will be used to support local veterans.

The armed members of that courageous and daring invasion through Normandy made it possible to move towards ending one of the most brutal wars in recorded history.

Officials attending the event include House Representative Walt Blackman and Brenda Barton along with Payson Mayor Tom Morrissey. We want to thank our members for supporting this as a memory of great importance and a fundraiser to help our veterans today.

Submitted by: Kathy Zeisse, Public Relations Chair



“Payson Elks #2154 Scholarship Awards Winners”



Congratulations to our recipients of the 2021 Elks Foundation MVS Scholarship Contest.

Arjun Daya made it to the district level for the Elks Foundation Most Valuable Student Scholarship contest. He was awarded a \$2000 Scholarship Grant to help further his college education. Emma Van Zile was chosen by the Payson Elks Lodge to receive our MVS Scholarship Grant. Emma will attend a local college to further her education. Both students will receive a grant from our Lodge in the amount of \$2000. An awards dinner and presentation was held May 21st to honor these exceptional students.

Submitted by: Kathy Zeisse, Public Relations Chair

“Yuma Elks Lodge #476 Donates to Food Bank”



Sheryl Christenson Leading Knight Yuma Elks Lodge 476 presented Sara Whitehead from the Yuma Community Food Bank a check for \$2500 to help the food bank over the summer. They are currently having to purchase produce for the boxes. The Foodbank provides food to the needy year round.

Submitted by: John Fuller, Public Relations

“Scottsdale Elks #2148 Hosts Multiple Events and Initiates 72 New Members”

Scottsdale AZ Lodge #2148 hosted a Memorial Day BBQ on May 31, 2021, following our joint participation with the American Legion in a Memorial Day Ceremony to the public at the Scottsdale Civic Center. We served 163 meals and raised \$2515 for our local PTSD charity.

Scottsdale AZ Lodge #2148 on June 13, 2021 were honored to have members of the Papago Buttes National Guard dedicate and raise a new American and Arizona flag for our Lodge. A dozen brave members and guests braved the 117 degree heat to watch the ceremony and salute our country's flag as they were raised up the pole.

Scottsdale AZ Lodge # 2148 initiated 72 new members to our Lodge on Sunday, May 23, 2021

Scottsdale Elks Lodge #2148 held our first annual "Bar Olympics" on May 23, 2021. Members and guests showed off their "bar skills, with dart throws, ping pong ball shots, horseshoe toss, corn bag toss, pool ball shot. Over 100 people participated to help us raise over \$2000.00 for Special Olympics.

Submitted by: Debra Clark, Lodge Secretary



“Tucson Elks #385 Hosts Flag Day Ceremony”

The Tucson AZ Lodge #385 conducting the Flag Day ritual on June 11, 2021. Tucson Girl Scout Troop #460 assisting with our ceremony and receiving a \$500.00 donation for their assistance.

Submitted by: John Aceves, Public Relations Chairman



“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Hosts Flag Day Ceremony”

The Bullhead City Elks honored our Nations Flag by observing Flag Day with the help of the Scouts BSA Troop #56 of Bullhead City, AZ and Scouts BSA Troop #48 of Needles, Ca. From left is Eagle Scout Richard IV Duncan, Scouts Henry Phillips-Rodriquez, Connor Ferrell, Antonio Sanchez, Cub Scout Francisco Sanchez, Scouts Adrian Ruiz, Catrina Duncan, Cub Scout Dexter Avila, and Eagle scout Dylan Eaton. Each scout paraded a flag into the room while Past Exalted Ruler Terri Frank read the history of each flag beginning with the Pine Tree flag through our current flag with 50 stars.

Submitted by: Terri Frank, Public Relations Chair



“Lake Havasu City Elks #2399 Donate to Domestic Abuse Shelter”

The Elkettes donated \$3000 to Faith and Grace in June from Pie sales profits.

Faith and Grace is a domestic violence service in Lake Havasu City, AZ providing help for people dealing with domestic abuse.

Submitted by: Eva Fox, Lodge News Team



Pictured L-R: Elkettes 1st Vice Addie Angle, President Vanessa Brewster, Faith and Grace President/Director Kathleen DeClark, Elkettes Pie Chair Eva D. Fox and PER Debbie Herd. Back row are Elkettes members.

“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Flag Day Ceremony”

On June 12, 2021, Raceway Elks Lodge #2852 held a Flag Day Ceremony at the lodge; the ceremony was open to the public. The Officers Performed the service superbly. Leading Knight Steven Cox gave the History of the Flag. And the Response was given by member Dan Snyder, PDDGER, PSP with 7 Girl Scouts from Troop 484 and Troup 1185 helping with the Flag display. There were 29 in attendance: 14 Elks, and 15 non-Elks. After the Ceremony one of the non-Elks and his wife gave the Lodge flags to retire in our next Flag retirement and asked for paperwork to join our Lodge. There was nothing but praise for the Flag Ceremony and those in attendance asked if they could attend next year.

Submitted by: William Buttrum PDDGER, Public Relations Chairman



We have permission to display the picture of the girl Scouts who helped with our Flag Service. From Left to right in back roll is Hannah, Jacobs Troop Leader next to her is Penelope Jacobs, Leilani Gaucine, Natasha Gaucini Troop Leader, 2nd roll left to right Cecilcia Gaucine, Arabella Johnson and in Front Triinity Gaucini

“Bullhead City Elks #2408 Scouts Flag Ceremony”



Bullhead City Elks commemorated Flag Day with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 8051

Submitted by: John Fuller, Public Relations

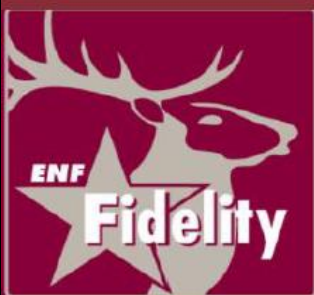
“Raceway Elks #2852 Hosts Father’s Day Event”

On June 20, 2021, Raceway held our Father’s Day Ritual, with 19 Elks and 10 non-Elks in attendance. The officers performed with pride including; Dan Snyder, PDP, DDGER giving a Tribute to Father, John Stergulz Reading a poem (Author Unknown), Steve Cox Reading a Poem by Ragini, and Kim Barrett reading a Poem by Helen Steiner Rice. After the ceremony all enjoyed scrambled eggs, biscuit and gravy, sausage, potato casserole, Coffee, Juice, and Danish. Prepared by Mary Snyder, Rose Hendricks, Robin Cox, Frank Elisa and William “Willie” Buttram. All in attendance left with the thought of Father in their Heart and well feed.

Submitted by: William Buttrum PDDGER, Public Relations Chairman



“Join the ENF Fidelity Club Today”



Becoming a member of the Fidelity Club is simple! Enroll online at enf.elks.org/recurring and start your gift today! If you prefer to sign up through the mail, [click here](#) for an enrollment form.

Questions? Contact enf@elks.org or 773/755-4728 for additional information about starting a monthly gift and joining the ENF Fidelity Club.

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 State Awards”

Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 had a stellar time at the AEA State Annual Convention in May, placing in almost every category. Casas Adobes Leading Knight, Mary Shaffer, really got her steps in picking up awards. Bruce Van Den Eng, PER is to be commended on his follow through. He is responsible for Casas Adobes winning these awards.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair

Lodge Activities Awards

Contest A All American Lodge

Division 2, Casas Adobes #2663 was forwarded to Grand Lodge for judging (not awarded still in judging)

Contest B Community Service & Image

Division 2, 1st place Casas Adobes #2663

Contest C Elks Memorial Service by Division

Division 2, 1st place Casas Adobes #2663

Contest D Lodge bulletin by Division

Division 2, 3rd Place Casas Adobes #2663



L to R: Grand Exalted Ruler, Paul R. Ryan, Leading Knight, Mary Shaffer and AEA ENF Chair, Bruce Van Den Eng

Americanism Awards

Americanism Essay

Division 2, 7th & 8th Grades, 1st place Regan Moore, Casas Adobes #2663

Americanism Lodge Brochure Contest

Division 2, 1st place Casas Adobes #2663

Elks Training Highest Percentage taking Quiz

South District, 1st place Casas Adobes #2663

Elks National Foundation Per Member Giving

South District, 1st place Casas Adobes #2663



Pictured 6 of the 7 awards won by Casas Adobes #2663 (One award had an error is being corrected)

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Father’s Day Event”

On Father’s Day Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 had the pleasure of hosting the Arizona Elks, 1st Vice President, Mike Weishan, and his lovely wife Kathy. He held a meeting with the Lodge Officers and Committee Chairman in the early afternoon and was impressed with all the work our Lodge is performing for Elkdome. After the meeting we performed the Father’s Day Ceremony and were honored to have 10 Firefighter’s from Northwest Fire District, Station 31 in attendance for the Ceremony along with Mike and his wife. We completed our day with a fabulous steak dinner that was enjoyed by one and all.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



L to R : Kathy Weishan, Mike Weishan and ER Carolyn Smith



Firefighters from Northwest Fire District, Station 31

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Flag Day Ceremony”

On June 14th we held our annual Flag Day Ceremony. We had many young children involved with carrying in the various flags that mark the progression of the government of the American people. Our present Flag was paraded in last accompanied by the POW – MIA Flag. All in attendance were moved during this stirring service.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



L to R: Ken Short, Linda Seggie-Saunders, Kellie Smith, Mary Shaffer, Carolyn Smith, Aimee Van Den Eng, Don Baker and Ira Cohen



“Casas Adobes #2663 Presents Americanism Essay Plaque”

On the 17th our lodge presented Reagan Moore (pictured with me) with the State Winners Plaque for the Americanism essay contest along with the \$100 check from the AEA. Reagan just graduated from the 8th grade at Carden of Tucson (a local charter school) and is off to high school later this year. Reagan was one of the 18 students from Carden that submitted essays to our lodge that went one to win South District and our state but sadly she was not selected by Grand Lodge.



Submitted by: Bruce Van Den Eng, PER



“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 Hosts Youth Week”

Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 celebrated Youth Week by honoring our scholars and Americanism Essay winner. Prior to presenting the awards our guests were treated to a burger basket dinner. Following dinner South District Scholarship Chair, Richard “Dick” Campbell, and Lodge Scholarship Chair Eugene “Gene” Benevenia proceeded to honor each of our awardees. Regan Moore an 8th grader at Carden Middle School won first place in Division II – grades 7 & 8 for her Americanism Essay. Jade Backenkeller a student at Push Ridge High School and Adam Plante from University High School on the Rincon Campus were both awarded Most Valuable Student Scholarships toward their college education. They each received \$2000 from the Arizona Elks and \$250 from Casas Adobes Lodge. Jade is matriculating at Grand Canyon University in the fall to study Exercise Science and Nutrition. Adam is accepted in the U of A Honors Program to study Computer Science. Congratulations to these young people.

Submitted by: Mary Shaffer PER, Public Relations Chair



L to R: Richard Campbell, Eugene Benevenia, Adam Plante and ER Carolyn Smith



L to R: Richard Campbell, Eugene Benevenia, Jade Backenkeller and ER Carolyn Smith



L to R: Eugene Benevenia, ER Carolyn Smith, and Regan Moore



L to R: Eugene Benevenia, Jade Backenkeller, Adam Plante and Regan Moore

“Casas Adobes Elks #2663 PERs Gift to AEA President Charyll McKean”



Presentation of Step-Platform presented to AEA State President Charyll at the Organizational Meeting on June 12, 2021 by Casas Adobes Lodge #2663 PERs.

Submitted by: Jan Casacchia, AEA Photographer

Pictured L-R: Bruce VanDenEng, President Charyll, Ira Cohen, Mary Shaffer and Charles White

“AEA Protocol”

‘Tis the Season’ to let Protocol Shine

(An open letter to all lodge officers and members)

by

Ira Cohen, AEA State Protocol Chairman

Every Arizona lodge will be visited by the State President or a Vice President and a District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler in the coming months. I urge you to read and take to heart the nuances of ‘Protocol’ I will discuss here.

We all know that the basis of protocol is to treat visitors (and your own lodge members) as if they were guests in your home. However, we sometimes get complacent and neglect to recognize and point out ‘our own’ when other, perhaps more prominent guests are present. You may find yourself in this position this year when you host and entertain guests at your lodge during special events such as Father’s Day, Independence Day, Memorial Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year celebrations.

Lodges often invite local politicians, law enforcement/firefighters, media celebrities, etc. to the lodge for special events. In fact, we encourage you to do this. My caution to you is that you do not forget to also acknowledge ‘our own’ if a past or present State President, past or present Vice President or District Deputy has taken the time out of his or her own schedules to attend. Grand Lodge and AEA officers deserve this simple gesture of thanks because of the dedication they have displayed to attain their positions.

In summary Exalted Rulers and lodge officers, don’t wait for the official visitation by the DDGER or President/Vice President to demonstrate the excellent protocol of which your lodge is capable. Thank your PERs and past DDGERs and VPs for attending your lodge meetings. Acknowledge them on every occasion. We’re a volunteer organization and a little schmoozing goes a long way to soothe ruffled feathers and to encourage our volunteers to continue the great work our Order is capable of accomplishing. *Members who are not treated well tell their friends; guests who are not treated well tell everybody.* We all believe that our own lodge is ‘the friendliest lodge in the state.’ Let’s put our money where our mouth is and prove it..! Your members will appreciate it.

Questions about Protocol including greetings, seating acknowledgments, etc. are covered in detail in the Manual on Protocol available for download on the elks.org website. Other protocol-related questions may be directed to the District Protocol Chairs:

North District:	Beverly Cunningham, Payson Lodge	mdcbac@aol.com
South District:	Frank Fieldhouse, Catalina Mtn. Lodge	fhfield@comcast.net
East District:	Bill Foucher, Mesa Buckhorn Lodge	wfoucher@aol.com
West District:	Diane Bodwell, Phoenix Lodge	redbods@aol.com

As a reminder, the personal preference questionnaires filled out by the AEA President, Vice Presidents and the DDGERs are available on the azelks.org website. The Checklist forms that each of the visiting dignitaries will complete are also on-line so there should be no question about the factors on which you will be rated during their official visitations. My fellow Protocol Committee members and I look forward to a great Protocol year.

Arizona Elks

Major Projects

Making a world of difference, locally.

A LETTER FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT: **Charyll McKean**

We all know that last year was a bad year, personally as well as for our lodges, our communities and our country. However, all Arizona Elks rose to the challenge of still continuing with our charitable works, in spite of the pandemic. For this, each and every Lodge and each and every member must be commended. We still helped our youth, our veterans and others in need – what a testimony to our great Order and to the great members of the Arizona Elks Association!

This is especially true of the Arizona Elks Major Project, because in spite of having no conventions, no ER Marches and no chance to “pass the hats” the donations kept coming in and exceeded the expectations of all. Great job!

This year brings the promise of the end of the pandemic and a return to normalcy. I think we all see the desire in everyone to go to meetings and conventions and to reconnect in person, rather than by phone or video.



Charyll McKean, AEA President

I urge all of you to keep up the good work and keep those donations coming so we can help the children through the research done at the Steele Research Center, and so we can continue to provide all Arizona Youths the use, at no charge, of our Youth Camp. All of the volunteers who work maintaining and improving the Camp also need to be recognized for their dedication.

One easy way to donate is to join the “Diamond Club”. By so doing you can arrange to have whatever amount you choose automatically paid to the Arizona Elks Major Project each month. It’s a really easy and painless way to donate and even a small monthly amount of \$10.00 adds up and adds to the great work funded by our Major Project. It’s easy to get started – go to the Arizona Elks Major Projects website (<https://azelksmp.com>) and click the large yellow “DONATE” button on the upper right-hand corner of your screen.

Hoping you all stay healthy!

*"I know with your help
we can make this a
great year, both for the
Arizona Elks
Association and Arizona
Elks Major Projects."*

“Grand Lodge News”

See you during the Momentum of the next many years

A year ago, Stacey and I were just beginning this crazy time of representing all of you as the Grand Exalted Ruler. I can honestly say that this was something I would have never envisioned, but I am so glad to have been given this opportunity.

Why did I use *Creating Momentum for the Future of Elksdom* for our year? This organization is over 150 years old. It began with a group of actors who got together and decided to help the spouse of one of their friends who had passed and left her with nothing. That was in a different time, but benevolence is still a main focus of our organization. But our organization is not the only thing that is aging—it is our membership. I



**Message from
the Grand
Exalted Ruler
PAUL R.
RYAN**

want the Members to continue to recruit Members of the younger persuasion and get that benevolence into our younger generations.

I would love to continue to tell you what you should be doing during this time of year, but I think instead I want to delve into what this year has meant

to Stacey and me.

I joined this organization because my wife and her entire family were members. If you are 21 or over, believe in God and a part of my wife's family, you are an Elk! My in-laws then asked me to get on the board because of my experience in the hospitality industry and because of my business background. I had no idea it would lead to this position. Even a couple of years into my membership, I had no clue what a Grand Exalted Ruler was.

This year I will admit was difficult, the main reason is the COVID situation and the fact that Lodges were closed, Conventions were cancelled and States

Please see GER, Page 2

GRAND LODGE FRATERNAL COMMITTEE

These Lodges are All American

By JAMES E. STEWART
Committee Member

The 2020-2021 Lodge year was one of unusual circumstances. Nevertheless, our Lodges continued the great works of Elksdom as exemplified by the high quality applications received for the Contest 'A' — All American Lodge Contest. Complements to the many hundreds of Lodges that entered district contests and congratulations to the Lodges that achieved honors during their subsequent state competitions.

One-hundred and thirty-four (134) applications were forwarded for judging in the national competition. Each Lodge offered examples of fidelity to our Order and extraordinary service to their communities. You are models for us to follow. You make us proud to be Elks!

The three (3) top scoring Lodges in each of the six (6) membership divisions are awarded the title of "All American Lodge." Congratulations to the following eighteen (18) incredibly special Elks Lodges!

Division I (300 Members or fewer)

1st Place: Kearny, NJ No. 1050
2nd Place: Roxboro, NC No. 2005
3rd Place: Santa Monica, CA No. 906

Division II (301-500 Members)

1st Place: East Stroudsburg, PA No. 319
2nd Place: Gainesville, FL No. 990
3rd Place: Tampa, FL No. 708

Revision in Divisions for the 2021-2022 Contest

The 2021-2022 All-American Lodge Contest will have revised divisions that better equalize the number of Lodges in each division. The new division distribution is:

I = 1-150 Members (345 Lodges, 18%)
II = 151-225 Members (302 Lodges, 16%)
III = 226-300 Members (345 Lodges, 18%)
IV = 301-450 Members (318 Lodges, 17%)
V = 451-700 Members (316 Lodges, 17%)
VI = 701 Members & up (258 Lodges, 14%)

Division III (501-700 Members)

1st Place: Casa Grande Valley, AZ No. 1957
2nd Place: St. Louis, MO No. 9
3rd Place: Vestal, NY No. 2508

Division IV (701-1,100 Members)

1st Place: Phoenix, AZ No. 335
2nd Place: Apache Junction, AZ No. 2349
3rd Place: Fayetteville-Springdale, AR No. 1987

Division V (1,101-1,500 Members)

1st Place: St. George 'Dixie', UT No. 1743
2nd Place: Manasquan, NJ Lodge No. 2534
3rd Place: Santa Ana, CA No. 794

Division VI (1,501 Members or more)

1st Place: Sun City, AZ No. 2559
2nd Place: Orange, CA No. 1475
3rd Place: Lake Havasu City, AZ No. 2399

GER From Page 1

could not have people in and together. But it also has been very rewarding. However, once we were able to start to travel it was the time away from our family that was difficult. To be able to spend time with other people who love what this organization is all about. The warmth we received and the Elks we have had the chance to meet has been absolutely fulfilling. Nothing replaces our family, but the Elks Family sure helped remind us that we have a huge family. The COVID situation only showed me that it can get us down, but COVID cannot knock us out.

Stacey and I promise to continue to serve you as we move forward in our lives. We absolutely look forward to serving this organization and the people who we love and enjoy. You, the Elks!

We look forward to joining you in Tampa. It will be a fun and exciting convention. Thank you for allowing Stacey and I to represent you this last year and into the future.

